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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention includes a residue-free overlay target, as well as a method of forming a residue-free overlay target. The residue-free overlay target of the present invention is defined by trenches or pads including a series of raised lines. The raised lines included in the overlay target of the present invention substantially eliminate any surface topography, such as depressions, at the top surface of overlying material layers and, thereby, prevent accumulation of process residue which may obscure the overlay target and inhibit further processing. The method of the present invention may be accomplished and modified using process technology known in the semiconductor fabrication art and includes providing a semiconductor substrate, depositing a resist layer, patterning the resist, and executing a wet or dry etch to create at least one overlay target according to the present invention.

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